



9 May, 2024

Registration of Marriages

Context: The Supreme Court ruled last week that, despite possessing an official marriage certificate, a Hindu couple before the Court had "never attained the status of husband and wife."

➤ Solemnised Marriage:

- Solemnising a marriage involves conducting an official ceremony with appropriate rituals, governed by personal laws such as the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (HMA) and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 (SMA).
- Different religions have distinct requirements; for instance, Hindu marriages include rituals like kanyadaan and saptapadi.

➤ Registered Marriage:

- A registered marriage refers to a civil or non-religious marriage conducted under laws like the SMA.
- These marriages are solemnised in a registrar's office without religious rituals, and Section 8 of the HMA permits the registration of marriages conducted as per religious customs.

➤ Muslim Marriages:

- Muslim marriages are governed by Islamic law, which considers marriage a contractual obligation.
- The process involves obtaining consent from both parties, written consent, and the presence of witnesses, typically resulting in the issuance of a nikahnama by a Qazi.

➤ Constitutional Provisions:

- Constitutional provisions, including the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule, deal with marriage and divorce, along with vital statistics like registration.
- Although the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1886 exists at the central level, states have their own laws mandating marriage registration, with some states like Karnataka and Delhi making it mandatory.

➤ Validity and Evidence:

- While marriage registration serves various official purposes, it doesn't singularly determine the validity of a marriage.
- Under Section 114 of the Indian Evidence Act, there's a general presumption of marriage, but a marriage certificate is not conclusive proof.

➤ Legal Implications:

- Validity is pivotal in legal matters such as bigamy and inheritance disputes.
- Evidence supporting validity includes performing valid rituals, long cohabitation, and acceptance by family and friends, with a marriage certificate offering corroborative evidence but not absolute proof.

International Thalassemia Day

Context: At an event for International Thalassemia Day, Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, stressed the need for timely detection and prevention to reduce the burden of the disease.

➤ Overview:

- Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder affecting haemoglobin and red blood cell production.
- Results in anaemia due to fewer healthy red blood cells.
- Lack of oxygen delivery to tissues leads to symptoms.

➤ How Thalassemia Affects the Body:

- Causes mild to severe anaemia and complications like iron overload.
- Anaemia symptoms include fatigue, difficulty breathing, feeling cold, dizziness, and pale skin.

➤ Risk Factors:

- Affects individuals with ancestral links to malaria prevalent regions.
- Inherited condition passed from parent to child.

➤ Causes:

- Defective or missing genes encoding haemoglobin protein chains cause thalassemia.
- Severity depends on the extent of genetic defect.

➤ Types:

- Classified as trait, minor, intermedia, and major.
- Alpha thalassemia: Inherited alpha globin gene defects.
- Beta thalassemia: Inherited beta globin gene defects.
- **Symptoms:** Range from asymptomatic to severe, including fatigue, growth problems, and severe anaemia symptoms.

➤ Diagnosis:

- Blood tests including complete blood count and genetic testing.
- Diagnosis often in childhood due to symptom onset.

➤ Treatment:

- Blood transfusions and iron chelation therapy for thalassemia major.
- Bone marrow transplant for potential cure.
- Regular monitoring and supplements to manage symptoms.

➤ Complications:

- Iron overload from transfusions or disease.
- Increased risk of severe infections.

➤ Prevention:

- Genetic testing for carriers.
- Family planning guidance from genetic counsellors.

➤ Outlook:

- Bone marrow transplant offers potential cure.
- Long-term survival with proper treatment.

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- Iron overload-related heart disease is a leading cause of mortality.

➤ **Living With:**

- Requires frequent monitoring of blood counts and iron levels.
- Yearly tests for heart and liver function.
- Increased vigilance for infections and iron overload.

India-Nepal Border Dispute

Context: Nepal's cabinet recently approved including a map on its Rs 100 currency note, depicting areas administered by India in Uttarakhand as part of Nepal's territory.

➤ **Territorial Dispute and Background:**

- Dispute over a 372-sq-km area encompassing Limpiadhura, Lipulekh, and Kalapani at the India-Nepal-China trijunction.
- Rooted in historical claims and varying interpretations of treaties and maps, notably the Treaty of Sugauli in 1816.

➤ **Parliamentary Decision and Diplomatic Efforts:**

- Nepal's Parliament adopted the map consensus four years ago.
- Pledge by Indian and Nepali Prime Ministers to resolve the boundary issue diplomatically.
- Past assurances and mechanisms for resolution have yielded limited progress.

➤ **Recent Developments and Bilateral Relations:**

- Nepal's cabinet decision to feature the map on currency notes met with skepticism.
- Strains in bilateral ties, including the 2015 blockade, have impacted relations.
- Ongoing efforts to address border encroachments with both India and China.

➤ **Current Situation and Resolution Efforts:**

- Lack of consensus within Nepal regarding the map's inclusion on currency notes.
- Mixed views within Nepal, with some emphasising dialogue and others advocating for stronger action.
- Hopes for improved connectivity with China to mitigate potential hardships.

➤ **India-Nepal Relations and Future Outlook:**

- Friction over territorial issues has strained relations in recent years.
- Despite agreements to resolve disputes based on evidence, no concrete timeframe for discussions has been set.
- Uncertainty regarding future developments and the potential for continued diplomatic efforts.



NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Indian Council of Medical Research



icmr
INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH
Serving the nation since 1911

The Indian Council of Medical Research-ICMR, in collaboration with the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) in Hyderabad, has launched upgraded dietary guidelines tailored to modern eating habits in 2024.

About Indian Council of Medical Research:

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is a **medical research body in New Delhi** that is responsible for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research in the country.
- It is one of the **world's oldest medical research bodies, established in 1911 by the Government of India** as the Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA).
- In **1949**, after India gained independence, the IRFA was renamed the ICMR.
- It is funded by the Government of India through the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare's Department of Health Research.**
- It **promotes biomedical research** through intramural research, which is conducted by its own institutes and centers, and extramural research, which is conducted through grants-in-aid given to non-ICMR institutes.
- The ICMR-NIN has recently, **advised people to consume iodized salt**, restrict intake of added **salt to a maximum of 5 gm per day** and has urged people to develop a taste for food-diets that are low in salt from an early age.

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Central Bureau of Investigation



Recently, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested four accused in a case related to the trafficking of Indian nationals for combat roles in the Russian Army.

About the Central Bureau of Investigation:

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is India's premier investigative agency, responsible for investigating and fighting serious crimes.
- It was established in 1941 to investigate corruption in procurement during World War II, and in 1963 to investigate serious crimes related to defense, corruption, fraud, cheating and embezzlement.
- It is part of the Department of Personnel, Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances, Government of India.
- It provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.
- It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 and needs consent from the respective State governments for conducting investigations.
- It operates under the motto "Industry, Impartiality and Integrity," reflecting its commitment to diligence, fairness, and ethical conduct in its investigations.
- It has a conviction rate of 65 to 70%, which is comparable to the best investigation agencies in the world.

Artemis Mission

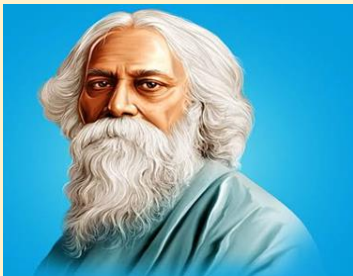


In September 2025, NASA plans to send a four-member Artemis crew around the moon as part of preparations for future lunar landings.

About the NASA's Artemis program:

- NASA's Artemis program is a Moon exploration program that aims to establish a permanent human presence on the Moon for the first time since 1972.
- The program's long-term goal is to facilitate human missions to Mars by learning how to live and work on another world.
- NASA will collaborate with commercial and international partners on the Artemis program and plans to land the first woman and first person of color on the Moon.
- Comprising a four-member team, carefully selected and trained to execute the mission's objectives with precision and expertise.
- The primary target of the mission is to delve into the complexities of cislunar space, laying the groundwork for future lunar exploration endeavors.

Personality in News Rabindranath Tagore



Recently, the 163rd birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was celebrated in Bangladesh.

Rabindranath Tagore (7 May 1861 - 7 August 1941)

Rabindranath Tagore, a polymath, poet, writer, composer, philosopher was born into a prominent Bengali family in Kolkata.

Contributions:

- Tagore founded Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan, West Bengal,
- His most celebrated work, "Gitanjali: Song Offerings," earned him the Nobel Prize.
- He authored the national anthems of India ("Jana Gana Mana") and Bangladesh ("Amar Sonar Bangla").
- His influence also inspired Sri Lanka's national anthem.
- He composed over 2,230 songs, known as Rabindra Sangeet and created thousands of paintings.

Awards and Honours:

- Tagore was the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913, primarily for his work "Gitanjali."
- He was awarded a knighthood in 1915 by the British Crown, but he renounced it in 1919 in protest against the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Ethical Values: Intellectual Freedom, spiritual harmony, cultural integrity, etc.

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Place in News

Colombia

Recently, a tourist at Colombia's El Cocuy National Natural Park found the Ritacuba Blanco glacier, typically covered in uniform snow, displaying vast crevasses resulting from severe melting due to the brutal El Niño phenomenon.

Colombia (Capital: Bogota)

Location: Colombia is a country located in the northern part of South America.

Boundaries: Colombia shares its borders with **Venezuela** (East & Northeast), **the Pacific Ocean** (West), **the Caribbean Sea** (North), **Panama** (Northwest), **Ecuador** and **Peru** (South & Southwest) and **Brazil** (Southeast)

Physical Features:

- The highest point in Colombia is **Pico Cristobal Colon**, a part of the **Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta** mountain range, located in the northern part of the country near the Caribbean coast.
- Colombia is home to various rivers and lakes, including the **Magdalena River**, **Cauca River** and **Lake Tota**, the largest lake in Colombia.
- Colombia boasts rich mineral resources including coal, **gold**, **emeralds**, **nickel**, **copper**, **iron ore**, **silver** and **platinum**.



POINTS TO PONDER

- Which space agency recently achieved a milestone by conducting the first Pre-Burner Ignition trial for the SCE-200 semi-cryogenic engine? – **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**
- Which organization recently published the World Migration Report for the year 2024? – **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**
- Which virus, belonging to the flavivirus genus and first isolated in 1937 in Uganda, is responsible for cases of West Nile fever reported in Kerala? – **West Nile virus (WNV)**
- Which Indian freedom fighter, along with others, was tragically shot by the British on September 20, 1942, during the Quit India Movement while attempting to hoist the Tricolour at a police station in Dhekiajuli? – **Tileswari Koch**
- Which governmental organization, established in 1960 under the Ministry of Defence, is responsible for the construction and upkeep of roads in India's border areas? – **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**

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